



Jeffries wins historic bid to lead House Dems after Pelosi



House Democratic Caucus Chair Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., arrives for leadership elections at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022.

Associated Press

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Jeffries wins historic bid to lead House Dems after Pelosi

By LISA MASCARO

AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) —

House Democrats ushered in a new generation of leaders on Wednesday with Rep. Hakeem Jeffries elected to be the first Black American to head a major political party in Congress at a pivotal time as long-serving Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her team step aside next year.

Showing rare party unity after their midterm election losses, the House Democrats moved seamlessly from one history-making leader to another, choosing the 52-year-old New Yorker, who vowed to "get things done" in the new Congress, even after Republicans won control of the chamber. The closed-door vote was unanimous, by acclamation.

"We stand on their collective broad shoulders," Jeffries said afterward of Pelosi and her team.

"The best thing that we can do as a result of the seriousness and solemnity of the moment," he had said earlier, "is lean in hard and do the best damn job that we can for the people."

It's rare that a party that lost the midterm elections would so easily regroup and stands in stark contrast with the upheaval among Republicans, who are struggling to unite around GOP leader Kevin McCarthy as they prepare to take control when the new Congress convenes in January. Wednesday's internal Democratic caucus votes of Jeffries and the other top leaders came without challenges.

Cheers broke out in the private meeting, where typically contested party elections unfolded instead like church service, a call-and-response affirming Democrats' confidence in their choices, some in the room said.

The trio led by Jeffries, who will become the Democratic minority leader in the new Congress, includes 59-year-old Rep. Katherine Clark of Massachusetts as



Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., joined by Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Mass., left, and Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-Calif., speaks to reporters after they were elected by House Democrats to form the new leadership when Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., steps aside in the new Congress under the Republican majority, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022. Clark will become the Democratic whip, and Aguilar takes over a chairman of the Democratic Caucus.

Associated Press

the Democratic whip and 43-year-old Rep. Pete Aguilar of California as caucus chairman. The new team of Democratic leaders is expected to slide into the slots held by Pelosi and her top lieutenants — Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland and Democratic Whip James Clyburn of South Carolina — as the 80-something leaders make way for the next generation. But in many ways, the trio has been transitioning in plain sight, as one aide put it — Jeffries, Clark and Aguilar working with Pelosi's nod these past several years in lower-rung leadership roles as the first woman to have the speaker's gavel prepared to step down. Pelosi, of California, has led the House Democrats for the past 20 years, and colleagues late Tuesday granted her the honorific title of "speaker emerita."

"It an important moment for the caucus — that there's a new generation of leadership," said Rep. Chris Pappas, D-N.H., ahead of voting.

Democratic Rep. Cori Bush of Missouri called the leadership election "historic" and a "time for change." While Democrats will be relegated to the House minority in the new year for

the 118th Congress, they will have a certain amount of leverage because the Republican majority is expected to be so slim and McCarthy's hold on his party fragile.

The House's two new potential leaders, Jeffries and McCarthy, are of the same generation but have almost no real relationship to speak of — in fact, the Democrat is known for leveling political barbs at the Republican from afar, particularly over the GOP's embrace of former President Donald Trump. Jeffries served as a House manager during Trump's first impeachment.

Jeffries said Wednesday he will work with Republicans "whenever possible but we will also push back against extremism whenever necessary."

On the other side of the Capitol, Jeffries will have a partner in Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer as two New Yorkers are poised to helm the Democratic leadership in Congress. They live about a mile (1.6 kilometers) apart in Brooklyn.

"There are going to be a group, in my judgment, of mainstream Republicans who are not going to want to go in the MAGA

direction, and Hakeem's the ideal type guy to work with them," Schumer said in an interview, referencing Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan.

Clark, elected for the No. 2 spot, extended the invitation to Republicans to work with Democrats on bipartisan projects.

"Our door is open for any member from across the aisle who wants to get to work for the American people," she said.

At the same time Aguilar, the third-ranking member, said Democrats emerged from the narrow midterm election with a mandate: "What we're fighting against is this MAGA extremism" that has captured the right flank of Trump's party.

Jeffries has sometimes been met with skepticism from party progressives, viewed as a more centrist figure among House Democrats.

But Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., a progressive and part of the "squad" of liberal lawmakers, said she has been heartened by the way Jeffries and his team are reaching out, even though they face no challenges.

"There's a genuine sense that he wants to develop relationships and working

partnerships with many of us," she said.

Clyburn, now the highest-ranking Black American in Congress, is seeking to become the assistant Democratic leader, keeping a seat at the leadership table and helping the new generation to transition.

But Clyburn faces an unexpected challenge from Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., who is openly gay and argued Wednesday in a letter to colleagues that House Democrats should "fully respect the diversity of our caucus and the American people by including an LGBTQ+ member at the leadership table."

After Wednesday's hugging and high-fives, the elections Thursday for the assistant leader post and several others are expected to be more divisive.

Jeffries' ascent comes as a milestone for Black Americans, the Capitol built with the labor of enslaved people and its dome later expanded during Abraham Lincoln's presidency as a symbol the nation would stand during the Civil War. His Brooklyn-area district was once represented by Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to Congress, and he noted that she was born on the same day as his election, Nov. 30, in 1924.

Civil rights leader Rev. Al Sharpton called Jeffries' elevation a "long overdue moment in America," noting that "another barrier to equal representation has come down."

Pelosi and Hoyer plan to remain in office, an unusual but not unprecedented arrangement that Jeffries called a "blessing" the new leaders can seek their counsel.

While the House Democrats are a big, diverse and often "noisy" group, Jeffries said it's a good thing, and representative of the House as "the institution closest to the people."

"At the end of the day, we always come together, find the highest common denominator and get the things done everyday Americans," he said. □

House votes to avert rail strike, impose deal on unions

By KEVIN FREKING
and JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. House moved urgently to head off the looming nationwide rail strike on Wednesday, passing a bill that would bind companies and workers to a proposed settlement that was reached in September but rejected by some of the 12 unions involved. The measure passed by a vote of 290-137 and now heads to the Senate. If approved there, it will be signed by President Joe Biden, who urged the Senate to act swiftly. "Without the certainty of a final vote to avoid a shutdown this week, railroads will begin to halt the movement of critical materials like chemicals to clean our drinking water as soon as this weekend," Biden said. "Let me say that again: without action this week, disruptions to our auto supply chains, our ability to move food to tables, and our ability to remove hazardous waste from gasoline refineries will begin." Business groups including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the American Farm Bureau Federation have warned that halting rail service would cause a \$2 billion per day hit to the economy. The bill would impose a compromise labor agreement brokered by the Biden administration that was ultimately voted



Freight train cars sit in a Norfolk Southern rail yard on Sept. 14, 2022, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

down by four of the 12 unions representing more than 100,000 employees at large freight rail carriers. The unions have threatened to strike if an agreement can't be reached before a Dec. 9 deadline. Lawmakers from both parties expressed reservations about overriding the negotiations. And the intervention was particularly difficult for Democratic lawmakers who have traditionally sought to align themselves with the politically powerful labor unions that criticized Biden's move to intervene in the contract dispute and block a strike.

House Speaker Nancy

Pelosi responded to that concern by adding a second vote Wednesday that would add seven days of paid sick leave per year for rail workers covered under the agreement. However, it will take effect only if the Senate goes along and passes both measures. The House passed the sick leave measure as well, but by a much narrower margin, 221-207, as Republicans overwhelmingly opposed it, indicating that prospects for passage of that add-on are slim in the evenly divided Senate.

The call for more paid sick leave was a major sticking point in the talks. The rail-

roads say the unions have agreed in negotiations over the decades to forgo paid sick time in favor of higher wages and strong short-term disability benefits.

The head of the Association of American Railroads trade group said Tuesday that railroads would consider adding paid sick time in the future, but said that change should wait for a new round of negotiations instead of being added now, near the end of three years of contract talks.

The unions maintain that railroads can easily afford to add paid sick time at a time when they are recording record profits. Several

of the big railroads involved in these contract talks reported more than \$1 billion profit in the third quarter.

"Quite frankly, the fact that paid leave is not part of the final agreement between railroads and labor is, in my opinion, obscene," said Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass. "It should be there and I hope it will be there at the end of this process."

Most rail workers don't receive any paid sick time but they do have short-term disability benefits that kick in after as little as four days and can replace some of their income for a year or more. Rail workers do receive vacation and personal leave days, but workers say it's difficult to use those for illnesses because they must typically be approved far ahead of time. Republicans also voiced support for the measure to block the strike, but criticized the Biden administration for turning to Congress to "step in to fix the mess."

"They've retreated in failure and they kicked this problem to Congress for us to decide," said Rep. Sam Graves, R-Mo.

Republicans criticized Pelosi's decision to add the sick leave bill to the mix. They said the Biden administration's own special board of arbitrators recommended higher wages to compensate the unions for not including sick time in its recommendations. □

Raimondo: U.S. isn't seeking to sever economic ties with China



U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo speaks during the High-Level Economic Dialogue Second Annual Meeting in Mexico City, Monday, Sept. 12, 2022.

Associated Press

By PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States isn't seeking to sever economic ties with China even as Washington takes steps to protect America's technological and military prowess from Beijing, U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said.

Speaking to reporters in advance of a speech Wednesday on the Biden administration's China policy, Raimondo said: "We're not seeking the decoupling from China.

We want to promote trade and investment in areas that don't threaten our core economic and national security interests or compromise human rights values."

Relations between the world's two biggest economies have chilled over the last decade, partly because the communist government in Beijing has cracked down on dissent in Hong Kong and on Muslims in the northwestern region of Xinjiang.

President Donald Trump imposed massive taxes on

Chinese imports in a dispute over the strong-arm tactics including the alleged theft of trade secrets that Beijing has used to challenge America's edge in technology.

The Biden administration has kept Trump's tariffs and has stepped up a campaign to keep the Chinese from acquiring sensitive technology that could speed its military buildup. Most notable was the decision last month to block exports of advanced computer chips to China. □

Tornadoes fueled by record highs wrecked homes around South

By **KIM CHANDLER**
and **JEFF MARTIN**
Associated Press

WETUMPKA, Ala. (AP) — Tornadoes damaged numerous homes, destroyed a fire station, briefly trapped people in a grocery store and ripped the roof off an apartment complex in Mississippi, while two people died as a tree crunched their mobile home in Alabama, authorities said Wednesday.

The National Weather Service had warned that strong twisters capable of carving up communities over long distances were possible as the storm front moved eastward from Texas. They were fueled by record high temperatures and threatened a stretch of the United States where more than 25 million people live.

A total of 73 tornado warnings and 120 severe thunderstorm warnings were issued from Tuesday afternoon to Wednesday morning, said Matthew Elliott, a meteorologist at the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma.

Significant tornado damage was evident in the Flatwood community north of Montgomery, Alabama, where two people were killed as a tree struck their home, said Christina Thornton, director of the Montgomery County Emergency Management Agency.



People walk through an area of destroyed structures in Flatwood, Ala. on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022.

Others in the tight-knit community narrowly escaped with their lives: Caroline Bankston said she and Tim Wiseman were watching the news and trying to figure out where the twister was when she looked out the window and realized it was on top of them. They ran to a safer corner as the roof caved in, burying their sofa in debris.

"We just prayed, prayed, prayed, 'Please God Please take care of us. Please,' and he did. You can replace stuff, but you

can't replace a person," Bankston said, her voice still trembling. Isaiah Sankey, who represents Flatwood as vice chairman of the Montgomery County Commission, expressed grief for the lives lost and vowed that installing storm shelters will be a priority.

"When we do rebuild, we will have storm shelters," Sankey said.

"We have got to prepare for these unforeseen circumstances."

In the west Alabama town of Eutaw, large sections of

the roof were missing from an apartment complex, displacing 15 families in the middle of the night, and power lines and trees were "all over the road," Eutaw Police Chief Tommy Johnson told WBRC-TV.

A suspected tornado damaged numerous homes during the night in Hale County, Alabama, where the emergency director said more than a third of the people live in highly vulnerable mobile homes.

"I have seen some really nice mobile homes tied

Associated Press

down, but they just don't stand a chance against a tornado," Hale County Emergency Management Director Russell Weeden told WBRC.

Two other people were injured as the storm tore apart homes in Caldwell Parish, Louisiana, Sheriff Clay Bennett told KNOE-TV. The weather service confirmed that tornadoes hit the ground in Mississippi. Images of the wreckage in Caledonia showed a grocery store damaged, a fire station shredded and a house toppled, but Lowndes County Emergency Management Agency Director Cindy Lawrence told WTVA-TV that everyone escaped injury. Hail stones crashed against the windows of City Hall in the small town of Tchula, Mississippi, where sirens blared as the mayor and other residents took cover.

"It was hitting against the window, and you could tell that it was nice-sized balls of it," Mayor Ann Polk said after the storm passed.

High winds downed power lines, and flooding was a hazard as more than 5 inches (13 centimeters) of rain fell within several hours in some places. More than 50,000 customers in Mississippi and Alabama were without electricity Wednesday morning, according to poweroutage.us, which tracks utility outages. □

U.S. officials say 2 more places will test sewage for polio



Ryan Dupont, Utah State University Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering, collects sewage samples from the dorms at Utah State University Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020, in Logan, Utah, to test for COVID-19.

Associated Press

By **MIKE STOBBE**
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Philadelphia and Oakland County, Michigan, are joining the small list of U.S. localities that are looking for signs of polio infections in sewage, U.S. health officials said Wednesday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the communities will test for polio in sewage for at least four months. Communities in New York state began testing earlier this year after a man was diagnosed with paralytic polio outside New York City. CDC

officials say they have been talking with other communities about also starting polio wastewater testing. They are focused on cities and counties with low polio vaccination coverage and those in which travelers had visited the New York communities where polio was found.

Officials say identifying the virus in sewage can help a city or county accelerate and target vaccination campaigns.

Health officials around the world have used wastewater to track COVID-19 outbreaks. The CDC currently is

receiving wastewater sampling data for the coronavirus from all 50 states. This year, commercial laboratories began testing wastewater for mpox, previously known as monkeypox.

Next year, health officials in Houston and Colorado plan to begin testing sewage for several other health threats, including germs with antibiotic resistance, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus, norovirus and other bugs. If the pilot goes well, the wider testing will be rolled out to other parts of the country, CDC officials said. □

EU seeks specialized court to investigate Russia war crimes

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union proposed Wednesday to set up a U.N.-backed court to investigate possible war crimes Russia committed in Ukraine, and to use frozen Russian assets to rebuild the war-torn country.

European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said in a video message that the EU will work with international partners to get "the broadest international support possible" for the tribunal, while continuing to support the International Criminal Court.

Since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, his military forces have been accused of abuses ranging from killings in the Kyiv suburb of Bucha to deadly attacks on civilian facilities, including the March 16 bombing of a theater in Mariupol that an Associated Press investigation established likely killed close to 600 people. Investigations of military crimes committed during the war in Ukraine are underway around Europe, and the Hague-based International Criminal Court has already launched a probe. But because Russia does not accept the International Criminal Court's jurisdiction, the European Commission said it presented to the 27 EU countries two options to hold the Kremlin accountable: either a "special independent international court based on a multilateral treaty or a specialized court integrated in a national justice system with international judges a hybrid court."

Ukrainian first lady Olena Zelenska on Tuesday also urged that Ukraine's invaders be held accountable. "Victory is not the only thing we need. We need justice," she told lawmakers in London, comparing Russian war crimes to the atrocities Nazi Germany committed in World War II.



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen applauds during a ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the European Parliament, Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022 in Strasbourg, eastern France.

She called on Britain to lead efforts to set up a criminal tribunal to prosecute senior Russians, similar to the postwar Nuremberg trials of leading Nazis.

Von der Leyen on Wednesday added that the EU wants to make Russia pay for the destruction it caused in neighboring Ukraine by using Russian assets frozen under sanctions. She estimated the damage to Ukraine at 600 billion euros (\$617 billion).

"Russia and its oligarchs have to compensate Ukraine for the damage and cover the costs for rebuilding the country," von der Leyen said. "We have the means to make Russia pay."

Von der Leyen said 300 billion euros (\$308 billion) of the Russian central bank reserves has been immobilized, and that 19 billion euros (\$20 billion) of Russian oligarchs' money has been frozen. "In the short term, we could create with our partners a structure to manage these funds and invest them," she said. "We would then use the proceeds for Ukraine, and once the sanctions are lifted, these funds should be used so that Russia pays full compensation for the damages

caused to Ukraine."

The EU said the lifting of the restrictions on Russian assets could be linked to conclusion of a peace deal between Ukraine and Russia that would settle the question of damages reparation. In other Ukraine war developments:

Russia's military appear to be studying targets, positioning warships and making other preparations to resume major attacks that have crippled Ukraine's energy and water infrastructure, Ukrainian officials said Wednesday. "At Russian airfields strategic aircraft are equipped, tactical aircraft are equipped, and a missile carrier is put on duty. These are indirect signs of preparing for a strike," Ukrainian southern military command spokeswoman Natalia Humeniuk said on Ukrainian TV.

Ukrainian officials reported progress in restoring power nationwide, with the energy deficit reduced to 27%. The country's electricity system operator, Ukrenergo, said that was a 3% improvement from Tuesday.

In the hard-hit Kherson region that Russia illegally annexed in September and Ukraine since reclaimed, officials reported partial

restoration of residential water supplies, albeit at reduced pressure, thanks to electricity being restored to water pumping stations. Power has returned to half of Kherson city's residents. Russian shelling in Kherson damaged a hospital, an industrial plant, a bank, residential buildings and infrastructure.

At the shut-down Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in southern Ukraine, Europe's largest atomic power station, Russian officials claimed Ukrainian shelling damaged a building and waste storage facilities but that containers inside with radioactive substances were not affected. Ukrainian authorities said the Russians shelled the cities of Marhanets and Nikopol across the Dnieper River from the Zaporizhzhia plant.

Ukraine's presidential office said that at least five civilians were killed and 21 wounded in the latest Russian shelling nationwide. Russian attacks in the Donetsk region focused on the strategically located town of Kurdiuvivka south of Bakhmut. In Bakhmut, Russian rockets hit residential buildings and a kindergarten, according to regional authorities. □

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Crunch time: The baguette gets UN world heritage status

By **THOMAS ADAMSON**
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The humble baguette the crunchy ambassador for French baking around the world is being added to the U.N.'s list of intangible cultural heritage as a cherished tradition to be preserved by humanity. UNESCO experts gathering in Morocco this week decided that the simple French flute made only of flour, water, salt, and yeast deserved United Nations recognition, after France's culture ministry warned of a "continuous decline" in the number of traditional bakeries, with some 400 closing every year over the past half-century.

The U.N. cultural agency's chief, Audrey Azoulay, said the decision honors more than just bread; it recognizes the "savoir-faire of artisanal bakers" and "a daily ritual."

"It is important that such craft knowledge and social practices can continue to exist in the future," added Azoulay, a former French culture minister.

The agency defines intangible cultural heritage as "traditions or living expres-



Bakery owner Florence Poirier, LEFT, smells the fresh baguette who comes out of the oven as Mylene Poirier stands next to her at a bakery, in Versailles, west of Paris, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022.
Associated Press

sions inherited from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants."

With the bread's new status, the French government said it planned to create an artisanal baguette day, called the "Open Bakehouse Day," to connect the French better with their heritage.

Back in France, bakers seemed proud, if unsur-

prised.

"Of course, it should be on the list because the baguette symbolizes the world. It's universal," said Asma Farhat, baker at Julien's Bakery near Paris' Champs-Elysees avenue.

"If there's no baguette, you can't have a proper meal. In the morning you can toast it, for lunch it's a sandwich, and then it ac-

companies dinner."

Although it seems like the quintessential French product, the baguette was said to have been invented by Vienna-born baker August Zang in 1839.

Zang put in place France's steam oven, making it possible to produce bread with a brittle crust yet fluffy interior.

The product's zenith did

not come until the 1920s, with the advent of a French law preventing bakers from working before 4 a.m. The baguette's long, thin shape meant it could be made more quickly than its stodgy cousins, so it was the only bread that bakers could make in time for breakfast.

Despite the decline in traditional bakery numbers today, France's 67 million people still remain voracious baguette consumers purchased at a variety of sales points, including in supermarkets. The problem is, observers say, that they can often be poor in quality.

"It's very easy to get bad baguette in France. It's the traditional baguette from the traditional bakery that's in danger. It's about quality not quantity," said one Paris resident, Marine Fourchier, 52.

In January, French supermarket chain Leclerc was criticized by traditional bakers and farmers for its much publicized 29-cent baguette, accused of sacrificing the quality of the famed 65-centimeter (26-inch) loaf. □

Colombia asks for legal status for its people already in U.S.

By **MANUEL RUEDA and ELIOT SPAGAT**
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia wants the Biden administration to grant temporary legal status to its citizens now living in the United States, noting its own efforts to address regional migration by hosting 2 million Venezuelans who fled their homes.

Gustavo Petro, who was elected Colombia's first leftist president in June, is committed to the "incredibly generous policies" of his predecessor, which includes temporary status for 1.8 million people who fled neighboring Venezuela, said Luis Alberto Murillo Urrutia, Colombia's ambassador to the U.S.

But the diplomat asked

the United States for help, saying that in addition to Venezuelans who stay and work, more than 80,000 migrants pass through Colombia each year on their way to other countries.

In a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, he asks President Joe Biden to grant Colombians already in the U.S. a form

of temporary status called Deferred Enforced Departure.

"Migration is a regional issue that should be addressed under the principle of shared responsibility, strengthening regional cooperation to ensure migratory regularization," Murillo Urrutia wrote in a letter dated Nov. 17 and released Tuesday by Colombian officials.

That language echoes an agreement that Biden struck in June in Los Angeles among Western Hemisphere countries, including Colombia under then-President Iván Duque. "The Los Angeles Declaration" was billed as a roadmap for countries to host large numbers of migrants and refugees.

The White House and Homeland Security Department had no immediate comment late Tuesday on Colombia's request.

It is unclear how many Colombians are living in the United States without legal status. The Migration Policy Institute estimated 171,000 in 2019 but that was before tens of thousands arrived at the U.S. border with Mexico this year, many of them released to pursue their cases in immigration court.

U.S. authorities have stopped Colombians 131,890 times at the Mexican border during the first 10 months of this year, including 17,195 times in October, a sharp increase that has made them one of the largest nationalities at the border. □



President of Colombia Gustavo Petro arrives for a dinner at the Elysee Palace to close the Peace Forum event, Friday, Nov. 11, 2022 in Paris.

Associated Press

10th Edition of Kids & Teens Christmas Song Festival

ORAJESTAD – Recently the 10th and final edition of Kids & Teens Christmas Song Festival 2022 took place at the Cas di Cultura.

Thirty participants, each dressed beautifully, presented their Christmas song in Papiamentu on a very high level accompanied by a great All Star Band and with a completely sold-out audience.

The festival was broadcast live, so that Aruba could enjoy the talent of our children and teens through different media like television, radio and social media.

This year, the 10th edition of Kids & Teens Christmas Song Festival was dedicated to:

1. Edjean Semeleer, who aside from being a great singer, knows how to delight Aruba with different concerts during the festive season at the end of the year, like "Hey ta Pasco", and is also a pillar to support our culture through his Go Cultura Foundation.

2. Tipico Katatumbo, which during the years delighted Aruba with the lovely 'gaitas' at the end of the year.



What stands out in Tipico Katatumbo is that they are known for bringing a great atmosphere and rhythm to the end of the year, inculcating the love for our year-end traditions in the youth. This way, Katatumbo

teeners was established. The competition and the participants were at a very high level. The organizers thank Aruba Bank, Prins Bernard Cultuurfonds Caribisch Gebied, Setar N.V., the Department of Cul-



ture of Aruba, and Total Finance for making it possible for every participant to receive four training sessions with the band as well as a general training. They also thank each company that put together gifts and prizes for the participants. Thanks to the big team that worked together for a high quality festival, to the judges who took on the difficult task, the staff at the Cas di Cultura, and the public who supported all 32 participants.

Winners Category 4-7 years:

Absolute winner: Jayzianne Theodora
Song: un kerstboom di foam.

Second place: Alyna Henriquez
Song: Den un stal Cristo a nace.

Third place: Marileen Willems
Song: Strea Bunita .

Winners Category 8-11

years:

Absolute winner:

Sofia Campo
Song: Ta Pasco awe.

Second place: John Maynard Wever
Song: Celebra cu legria.

Third place:

Hailey Koolman
Song: Su angelnan.

Winners Category 12-17 years:

Absolute winner:

Jorienne Angela & Jaylon Machado
Song: Señor ta existi.

Second place:

Carl Anthony Petrocchi
Song: Bolbe Cas.

Third place:

Stephanie Quant
Song: Rumannan di mundo.

Fourth place:

Caylee Pietersz
Song: Pasco na cas.

The festival will be broadcast again these upcoming festive days on all local television channels. □

Kiosk workers worried about bad smell in city center

ORANJESTAD – Yesterday morning on local and social media, once again complains were being voiced regarding nuisance caused by sewage and bad smell in the city center, in the area where cruise tourists are received.

The problem of sewage and bad smell continues in this area, which is heavily trafficked by tourists from cruise ships docking in the terminal nearby. Yesterday three different cruise ships visited our island, bringing



more than 12 thousand tourists. However, these visitors had an uncomfortable surprise with water and an

unpleasant smell.

Our reporter went to the area and spoke to some of the workers at the kiosks regarding this problem. One of them said that this is a problem against which they have been fighting for a long time already, and the government still has not come with a solution. "Every time that it rains it becomes a problem. The

smell is unbearable and the tourists have to walk in the sewage water and deal with the terrible smell. Imagine a tourist becomes sick or gets an infection because of the water? It would be a very bad experience and negative propaganda for Aruba", they said.

The worker, who chose to remain anonymous, explained that today they had the option of putting pallets on the areas that were covered in water to help the tourists walk, cross the street, etc. But it is not always that they have pallets available, and that means that sometimes the tourists have to step on the water in order to reach the kiosks.

Another worker at a kiosk

in the area said that aside from the problem of sewage water and bad smell, they also have a problem with trash. As tourists buy food and drinks, often they leave the packaging discarded on the sidewalk or placed somewhere other than in a trash can. "Most of the times, the salespeople ourselves pick up the trash because otherwise it would still be there. I have called DOW (Department of Public Works) many times myself, but they don't do anything, they don't help. It is really annoying and it looks bad", the worker complained.

Meanwhile the workers keep waiting for a solution for this problem, which they consider a big nuisance and a danger to public health. □



Bowls Noodle Bar invites you to try their December Special



Bowls Noodle Bar recently opened at their new location at The Village, near the High Rise Hotels. To celebrate, they are launching their new Happy Hour from 9pm to 11pm every day.

Before the pandemic, Bowls Noodle Bar opened at the Hyatt by the airport, and was in the process of opening a second location at The Village when the pandemic hit. Due to the consequences of the pandemic, they decided to close the restaurant by the airport and

open their new location at The Village. Their new location has been open for about six months to great results.

At The Village, night time is the best time. This is why they are now offering a daily Happy Hour, from 9pm to 11pm. It includes \$3 beer and \$5 cocktails. Their cocktails are made in-house with a unique fusion of Asian flavors, for example, the popular purple Ube Mojito, with the flavor of traditional Ube, a Japanese dessert; the Blue Samurai with ginger flavor; and the refreshing Fruity Blossoms, with a flavor encompassing the Sakura, the famous Japanese Cherry Blossoms. You can try all these for only \$5 each during Happy Hour.

Fusion is at the core of the unique flavors of Bowls Noodle Bar, and this is expressed beautifully in their traditional Japanese soups. They are the only restaurant in Aruba that has most of the noodles traditionally used, Udon, Ramen, and Rice noodles. Ramen noodles, served fresh, are a surprising flavor for those who are used to dried ramen noodles. They also have Jasmine rice for the rice bowls.

Their authentic soups are the highlight and star. Chef Warren explains that there are four main components to the soup: the broth, the noodles, tare, and the oil, and these are very important for the traditional Japanese soups. At Bowls Noodle Bar, they have a wide variety of flavors to cater to every taste, like the famous Pork Chashu. It comes with fresh ramen noodles, and it's the pride of Bowls Noodle Bar. Chef Warren says that the broth for this soup takes two to three days to make, and is made in-house, with fresh and delicious ingredients. They also cater to vegetarians and vegans, with various options on the menu like tofu mushroom soup, vege-



table gyoza, wonton, and fresh kimchi fermented at the restaurant.

The wok concept also allows you to create your own unique dish, choosing your base, protein, vegetables and sauce.

Origin

The founders of Bowls Noodle Bar, Dexter Moreno and his partner Lai, opened their first location on Curaçao. They traveled to Japan to study Japanese Cuisine, and they fell in love with Japanese soup. Lai's parents are Chinese, and this is the start of the Asian-fusion flavors that are both surprising and delectable, combining Japanese, Chinese and even some Korean cuisine. Chef Warren was trained in these traditional flavors by the founders themselves.

They came to Aruba where Dexter approached some ex-colleagues in the industry to open a location on the island, and with a local team, opened Bowls Noodle Bar Aruba with a more extensive menu.

And for the month of December Bowls Noodle Bar has created a December Special

Mondays you can get 20% off on your entire bill,

Tuesdays is Dollar to Florins on all food, beers and wines,

Wednesday you can get 20% off on Noodle Soups,

Thursday is 20% off on Stir Fry and **Friday** is 20% off on Izakaya.

Opening hours are Monday to Thursday 5pm – 11:30pm; Friday and Saturday 5pm – 12pm; and Sunday 5pm – 11:30pm. Come visit for great atmosphere, delicious flavors, and a Happy Hour to remember! ☐



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Launch of the QR FIT project

ORANJESTAD – On November 29, 2022, the Ministries of Tourism and Sports respectively launched an innovative project that fits into the tourism and health-care vision and policy.

The project's name is QR FIT. It is a project where locals and tourists can scan a QR code on the Boardwalk Malmok with their phones and choose from exercise options.

When you scan the QR code, it connects you to a website where you can choose an exercise or download an app. You may choose from various categories, beginner/intermediate /advanced, and 60 different exercises.

The Boardwalk Malmok is a



project funded by the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund (TPEF), and its 3rd phase will start soon. Many locals and tourist use this boardwalk. Now with the launch of the QR FIT, more people will use this area for sport and recreation. The government stimulates prevention in healthcare, and this project is a way to motivate our community to be more active. The policy is on the high-value, low-impact tourism model, and these innovative projects fit this category.

The Minister congratulates Ibisa y ATA for launching an innovative project that stimulates more people to use the boardwalk Malmok to have a more active and healthy community. □



History of fishing in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Fishing has been a family tradition for ages in Aruba. Our ancestors used to fish for a living. Even though nowadays you don't see them often we still have some passionate fishermen on the island that go out every day in search for fish to feed their families and serve our local market. One of these fisherman is Gregory Wernet.

The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. Since the time of the indigenous native people fish and other sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settlements of fishermen. Until the arrival of the oil -industry Aruban

fishermen could supply Aruba's wants.

As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. In the beginning of the 1900's approximately 160 people earn their living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, was the head quarter and remains the fishermen's settlement. Savaneta, Noord, Santa Cruz all had their fishermen's villages. At a rough estimate there were about a hundred small fishing boats during that time.

The Arubans were mainly engaged in coastal fishing, using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bottom of the sea the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species of fish by far caught in this manner are the pargo or



red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero, jeanpao and the wowo di boyo.

Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waits for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps. Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from

3 to almost 7 feet. The kingfish has a weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclat may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132 pounds.

Most fish caught is used for their own consumption, to feed their families and some are being sold in the market to local restaurants.

Fisherman Gregory Wernet

Gregory Wernet is a well-known fisherman from Santa Cruz. His father taught him fishing when he was a small child. Gregory has two sons, Jordan and Jordanny, which he taught fishing too, when they were only 3 years old and he takes them fishing with him. Fishing has been a family tradition for quite a long time and even his grandson Willvion of 7 years old is following his grandfather steps. This is the sixth generation of fishermen in their family.

They go deep sea fishing. There they catch red snapper, grouper and amberjack. They usually fish for 15 hours a day, but now due to the covid-19 measurements they go fishing from 5 in the morning until 8 o'clock at night or even sometimes from 8 at night till 5 in the morning. The day before they prepare all their fishing tools such as the Lines, lures, spears, and load their boat with fishing reels, batteries, fill the gasoline tank, lights and some food and beverages. For bait he uses sardines, squid and the small fish known



in Aruba as piskechi. They have two boats they use for fishing. 'Virgen del Valle' which is parked at the pier by the Seaport and 'Padrot' which they have at home.

The fish they catch they take home to their families and they also sell it to their clients. Gregory is proud to be a fisherman. It is a honest and humble job but with it he is able to feed his family even during hard times. It is a very dangerous job and you have to spend many hours on the sea, waiting patiently and risking your life while fighting a big fish and big waves but the adrenaline it brings with it but also just sitting there listening to the sound of the waves and enjoying the marvelous view that nature has to offer is all worth it. □

Source: Etnia Nativa



Final lesson by teacher Ramon Todd Dandaré



ORANJESTAD – Last Saturday, November 26, the Corrector of Papiamentu Foundation (FCP) had the honor of being the last group to receive a lesson from linguist and Spanish and Papiamentu teacher, Mr. Ramon Todd Dandaré Mag. Ling.

As usual this took place at the National Library of Aruba, and FCP is thankful to the Library for their cooperation. Ramon reached the

beautiful age of 80 years this year, and he has been giving lessons for 53 years. Because he has the wish to prioritize other work on his list, he decided to focus from now on, for example, on literary translation works. Ramon remains open to support where needed, but he will exclude giving lessons to groups.

FCP was founded after a group of public servants in 2022 completed the

Corrector of Papiamentu course in the professional superior level. The group saw a need to establish a foundation with the goal of promoting good use of Papiamentu through, among other things, the organizing of activities related to our national language. Now a new goal of the foundation is to organize training and retraining courses in Papiamentu. These will be especially for those who already have a base in Pa-



papiamento to improve their ability to review and correct different kinds of text in Papiamentu. During the past 20 years, which will be celebrated on the 6th of December, Ramon continued as a source of inspiration, motivation and support for the foundation and correctors.

For this group, it is a great honor to have been the last group to receive a lesson from Ramon. They know Ramon as a teacher with great dedication and passion for his work. He would share a lot more than just ability in and fitness for Papiamentu translation, and knowledge about revision and correction of text in

Papiamento. The group also learned from his work ethic and his norms and values.

As a teacher he finds it important to not only discuss the matter, but also to have exchanges with his students with respect and lots of love. One of Ramon's mottos for lecturing is: "Sharing knowledge with love while instilling critical sense." At any moment he would stimulate the critical thinking of those taking part in his lessons. Aside from the group of correctors, there were also some Papiamentu teachers present to deliberate together with FCP regarding the training course for next year. □

Official opening of Proline Winter Baseball 2022 honors Aruban star Chadwick Tromp

ORANJESTAD – Last Sunday, in front of a large group of fans, the grand opening of the first edition of Proline Winter League Baseball 2022 took place at the field of Nadi Croes and Crismo Angela in Santa Croes.

The evening began with a colorful parade in a great atmosphere, followed by



a our minister of Sport, Mr. Endy Croes throwing the

first pitch together with Aruban baseball star, Chad-

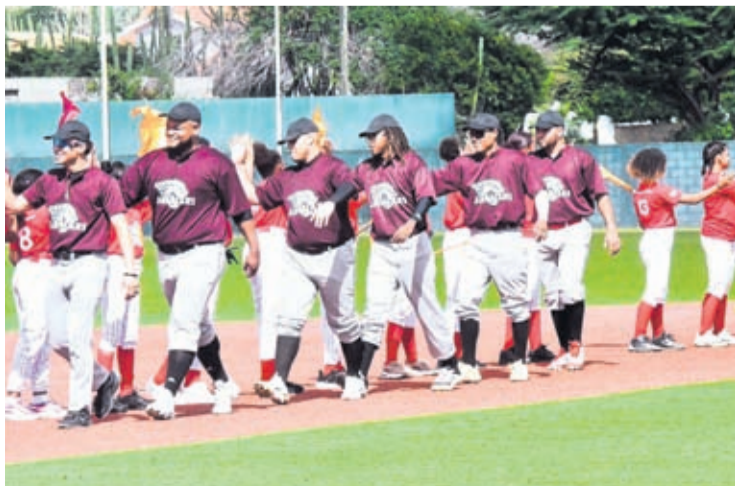


wick Tromp, to mark the official beginning of the tournament Proline Baseball Aruba. The Jaguars, Panthers, Ti-

gers and Lions teams battle to conquer the maximum title at the tournament.

During the opening ceremony, Proline Baseball Aruba honored Chadwick Tromp who was present to receive recognition from member of Proline Baseball Aruba, Mr. Eric Mohamed as well as the minister of Sport.

The Minister of Sport congratulated the organizers for a beautiful concept and project, and at the same time wished all four teams a lot of success in the 2022 championship. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Tiny

1 Neopagan 44 Oxen con-
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6 Cemetery
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11 Look
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12 Wake up

13 Compass
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14 Blundered

15 Intensify

17 Sit-up
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19 Penguin's
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20 "Holy
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23 Insurance
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25 Stereo
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28 In the past

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42 Fancy
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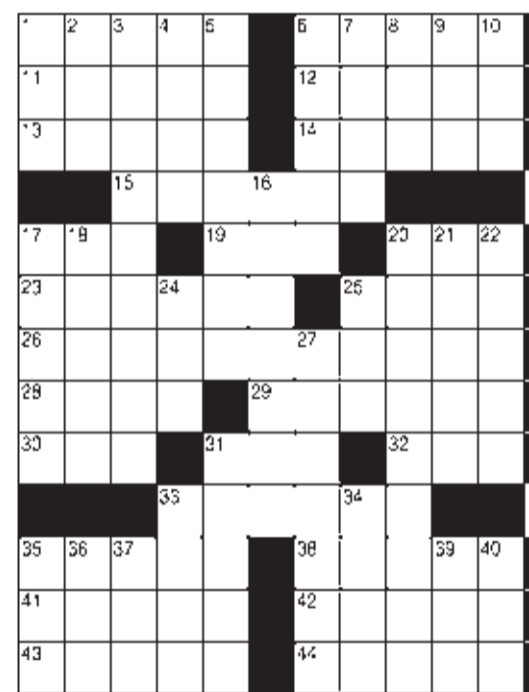
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TIRED PEARL
ALONE RANGE
TENT FONDUE
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DENY MESAS

Yesterday's answer

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slumber 37 Humor
24 Lamb's 39 Sturgeon
mother eggs
25 High pt. 40 Ave.
27 Eventually crossers



12-1

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-1

CRYPTOQUOTE

G D G F Q H P H Z X H L M J Q

J A X A Q C M E N H Q G O G V M F

L H M Q C F M L M Y N M C

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: DRINK YOUR TEA SLOWLY AND REVERENTLY, AS IF IT IS THE AXIS ON WHICH THE WORLD EARTH REVOLVES. — THICH NHAT HANH

Holiday survival tips from 5 financial pros

By KIMBERLY PALMER
of NerdWallet

For Ryan Decker, surviving the holiday shopping season is all about planning ahead. In fact, if he sees a gift for one of his two young sons in March, he'll go ahead and buy it, instead of rushing through his shopping list in December.

"It very much eases the burden," he says, making his December bills more manageable because he spreads holiday costs throughout the year.

Decker, a certified financial planner and director of the Center for Financial Literacy at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, says that without that kind of advance planning, the costs this time of year can quickly overwhelm budgets. "Inflation is eating away at our purchase power, so once you throw in the holiday season, it's a very stressful time."

Financial educators like Decker are often busy during the holiday shopping season, sharing tips with their audiences about how to avoid debt and save money while still being festive. We asked five of them how they personally navigate the season with their finances intact.

MAKE A LIST AND STICK TO IT

"I know I'm going to be setting a budget so I don't suffer after the holidays," says Christine Whelan, clinical professor of consumer science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She makes a list of those she needs to buy gifts for and assigns a spending cap for each person's gift.

Part of that strategy means limiting purchases to what she can comfortably afford out of savings instead of turning to credit card



In this Nov. 30, 2020 file photo, a shopper walks by a holiday window display in New York.

Associated Press

debt, Whelan says. "One of the ways we can use our limited resources to maximize our happiness is to pay now, rather than get socked with a credit card bill in February, which undermines our financial and emotional well-being."

GIVE (AND RECEIVE) MORE CREATIVE GIFTS

Jerry Graham, Atlanta-based co-founder of the website KindaFrugal.com, mentioned to his brother that he'd prefer a handmade gift this year. "He is so talented at art and woodworking, I told him I would appreciate a cutting board or something. A DIY gift is more memorable and comes from the heart," he says. It can often save money, too, and Graham knows his brother is on a budget. Similarly, Felipe Arevalo, community outreach coordinator for the San Diego Financial Literacy Center, collects family photos throughout the year, then, as soon as he sees a promo code pop up, creates a photo calendar for family members. Not only does it save money, but it also helps family members stay in touch and see how his sons, ages 4 and 9, are growing.

The DIY strategy also applies to kids. Says Whelan: "I'm encouraging my kids

to give coupons for in-kind gifts instead of things. Kids can give a card for walking the dog or other chores, cooking dinner for the family, even if it's just pasta or babysitting. It trains kids to think about other people rather than just buy their way out of a gift."

THINK BEYOND THE HOLIDAY SEASON

The holiday season is the perfect time to make financial plans for the upcoming year, says Bruce McClary, spokesperson for the National Foundation for Credit Counseling. "Right now, I'm putting together a rough outline of financial goals and priorities for 2023," he says. Focusing on things like travel plans or savings goals helps put holiday expenses in perspective. "You can tune out a lot of the advertising and emails related to the sales," he says, and instead zero in on what's most important to you.

One of the biggest obstacles to achieving financial goals is debt, which is easy to accrue during the holiday season. In fact, the 2022 Holiday Shopping Report from NerdWallet found that almost one-third of last year's holiday shoppers who used a credit card to buy gifts (31%) are still paying off their credit card balances.

Given the current economic climate and rising interest rates, McClary says, "It's probably a better idea than ever to avoid relying on loans and lines of credit to get through the holiday season, and to be as resourceful as possible about how you spend the money you have." □

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24/7

Australia steps up calls for U.S. to drop WikiLeaks charges

By ROD McGUIRK

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he recently told U.S. President Joe Biden's administration to bring WikiLeaks founder and Australian citizen Julian Assange's prosecution to a close. Albanese's comments Wednesday to Parliament appear to be an escalation of Australia's diplomatic pressure on the United States to drop spying charges against the 51-year-old who is resisting extradition from Britain.

"I have raised this personally with representatives of the United States government. My position is clear and has been made clear to the U.S. administration: That it is time that this matter be brought to a close," Albanese told Parliament.

"This is an Australian citizen," Albanese added. "I don't have sympathy for Mr. Assange's actions on a whole range of matters, but ... you have to reach a point whereby what is the point of ... continuing this legal action which could be caught up now for many years into the future?"

Albanese did not say whether he discussed Assange directly with Biden when the pair held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines a Cambodian summit two weeks ago. But Albanese said he had advocated for Assange "recently in meetings."

Albanese compared Assange's treatment to that of former U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning, who the prime minister said was "now able to participate freely in U.S. society."



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange pauses as he makes a statement to media gathered outside the High Court in London, on Dec. 5, 2011.

Associated Press

U.S. prosecutors allege Assange helped Manning steal classified diplomatic cables and military files that WikiLeaks later published, putting lives at risk. Then-U.S. President Barack Obama commuted Manning's 35-year sentence to seven years, which allowed her release in 2017. International news outlets that cooperated with WikiLeaks to publish confidential U.S. State Department cables in 2010 The New York Times, The Guard-

ian, Le Monde, El Pais and DER SPIEGEL published an open letter this week calling for Assange's prosecution to be dropped.

Albanese spoke in response to independent lawmaker Monique Ryan's question if the Australian government would intervene to bring Assange home. Albanese's government has been circumspect about Assange's prosecution since it was elected in May. Ministers' criticisms have been re-

strained to phrases such as the case had "dragged on for too long."

When the British government approved Assange's extradition in June, Albanese resisted calls that he publicly demand the United States drop the prosecution. □



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New frothy TV drama series 'Riches' mixes money and blood

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There's a new TV drama about the exploits of a stylish, privileged and super-successful fictional family whose scheming members are at each others' throats. They make the folks at "Succession" look almost functional. "Riches," which premieres Dec. 2 on Amazon Prime Video is set in the corporate suites of a Black-owned cosmetic giant in England whose patriarch leaves behind turmoil after dying in the first episode. As the business hangs in the balance, his different sets of children collide as they vie for control.

"I thought it was a great opportunity to write something that was fun and frothy and entertaining, but also had a bedrock of something more substantive to say about Black ownership, Black ambition and power structures," says Abby Ajayi, the show's creator and writer.

The result is an enthralling mix of high-end soap opera and dynastic legal backstabbing with social commentary about everything from police racism to journalistic discrimination and corporate ethics. Deborah Ayorinde, one of its stars, has a shortcut when she describes it to friends: "Beautiful rich people behaving badly."

Ayorinde plays Nina, one of two estranged children



This image released by Amazon Prime Video shows Deborah Ayorinde in a scene from "Riches." Associated Press

from her father's first marriage, both of whom have established themselves in business in America. But their father in his final days seemed to trust them more than his English children and shockingly leaves the empire in their hands.

That adds a trans-Atlantic element to the show as Nina and her brother Simon (Emmanuel Imani) have to navigate a hostile set of siblings and an angry stepmother (Sarah Niles, the therapist from "Ted Lasso") from their dad's second marriage. They enjoy the good life and had expected to coast with control of the firm.

"There's a self-sufficiency,

an independence that the British characters don't have. And so they're going to learn from each other. I think it's more a seesaw of the different experiences which mirror a lot of the experience I took back in my own life with my peers who move between the States and the UK and sometimes back to West Africa."

It was the portrayal of the African diaspora that attracted Ayorinde to the script, a way to celebrate some parts of the Black experience in different cultures.

"What I love about it is it respects the differences that we have, but it also highlights the similarities of

our experiences. And I just feel like that's something that might bridge the gap," she says. Ajayi has created messy but understandable roles. "I think it's good to explore Black characters who are flawed," she says. "Black characters get to be the cop or the robber, but they don't have any of the variation in between." Ajayi graduated from Oxford University before being nurtured by Shonda Rhimes, working as a writer-producer on ABC's "How to Get Away With Murder," the Hulu adaptation of "Four Weddings and a Funeral" and the Netflix series "Inventing Anna." She credits Rhimes with teach-

ing her pace and the importance of turning points. She grew up in London to a family of Nigerian immigrants and recalls her aunts loving frothy nighttime soap operas like "Dallas" and "Dynasty." "Riches" shows her keen ability to mix laughter and substance. "Nobody walks through their life saying, 'I'm in a drama' or 'I'm in a comedy.' You kind of have elements of both in every day," she says.

"Riches" was dreamed up and written by Ajayi during the pandemic, a way for her to escape into a gorgeous world of couture, bottle service at exclusive clubs and sleek ultra-modern offices in gleaming skyscrapers. "There was a kind of wish fulfillment, absolutely," she says, laughing. Ajayi, often clad in yoga pants during lockdown, would surf McMansions on British property sites for inspiration. "I definitely did start very much from character. I think with this show, what I want is to be relatable and hook-y for the audience," she says. "You might not have that money, but you have siblings, you have stepmothers, you have mothers you have relationships and the complexities of blended families."

Ajayi says she's always been fascinated by family businesses, the way in which conflicts spill from the boardroom to the sitting room and visa versa. □

Rolling Stones to release star-stuffed 2012 live recording

By **The Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — The Rolling Stones plan to release what they're calling their "ultimate live greatest hits album," with appearances by Lady Gaga, Bruce Springsteen, Gary Clark Jr. and The Black Keys, early next year.

"GRRR Live!" contains songs recorded live on Dec. 15, 2012, at Newark, New Jer-

sey's Prudential Center.

That night saw guest appearances by The Black Keys ("Who Do You Love?"), Clark and John Mayer ("Going Down"), Lady Gaga ("Gimme Shelter"), Mick Taylor ("Midnight Rambler") and hometown hero Bruce Springsteen ("Tumbling Dice").

Shown on pay-per-view in 2012, the concert has not

otherwise been available to fans until now. It also features some of the band's greatest hits, including "It's Only Rock 'n' Roll (But I Like It)," "Honky Tonk Women," "Start Me Up," "Sympathy For the Devil" and "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction." The 24-track collection will be released on Feb. 10 in vinyl, CD, DVD, digital and Blu-ray formats. □



Mick Jagger, of the Rolling Stones, performs during the band's "No Filter" tour on Monday, Nov. 15, 2021, at Ford Field in Detroit. Associated Press

Iran win another step as U.S. soccer tries to boost interest

By RONALD BLUM

AP Sports Writer

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — American soccer hopes to be ascendant, to challenge the NFL, Major League Baseball and the NBA in the competition for U.S. market share. Reaching the final 16 with Tuesday night's 1-0 win over Iran was another step for a team whose success is measured in television viewers and buzz along with final scores.

"I don't know the final numbers, but I'm sure there was a lot of people watching," U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter said. "You see how resilient this group is. You see how unified this group is. You see what type of energy and output they put into every single game. And then along the way, there's some pretty good soccer. That's the American spirit, the way this group plays, and I think people will appreciate that, especially back home."

The Americans opened with a 1-1 draw with Wales that was seen by 11.7 million on English- and Spanish-language U.S. broadcasts and followed with a 0-0 tie against England that was viewed by 19.98 million on Black Friday, when schools were off and many offices closed.

President Joe Biden took note of the victory over Iran when speaking in Bay City, Michigan.



United States' Yunus Musah, right, Aaron Long, center, and United States' goalkeeper Sean Johnson celebrate after defeating Iran in the World Cup group B soccer match between Iran and the United States at the Al Thumama Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022.

Associated Press

"They did it! God love 'em," Biden said.

A victory on Saturday against the Netherlands would put the U.S. in the quarterfinals for the first time since 2002. The status of Christian Pulisic is uncertain after he bruised his pelvis crashing into the goalkeeper while scoring against Iran. The U.S. Soccer Federation did not make Pulisic available to media on Wednesday but posted a video of him dribbling a ball. "We may be the underdog," said Brenden Aaronson, who replaced Pulisic at the start of the second half. "The Dutch are a world power and they've been that for many, many tournaments. So I think for us, it's just going in there with no fear

and playing the way we have been this entire tournament. And I think good things will come out of it." Matt Turner, the first U.S. goalkeeper with consecutive World Cup shutouts since 1930, was overcome with emotion at the final whistle. Turner thought back to how the U.S. performance in 2010 helped convert him to soccer. He was a high school baseball player who played soccer fulltime, then switched emphasis. Turner's journey took him to a Major League Soccer debut in 2018, a transfer to Arsenal last summer and now success on soccer's biggest stage.

"This is just an unbelievable experience for me, given my story," he said. "Almost everything is a carbon copy

of the feelings that I felt as a fan in 2010. And to be able to have a say in the result that gets us through to the next round is huge — it was just very emotional for a lot of reasons for me."

The American lineup against Iran was the youngest of any team at this year's tournament and the youngest for the Americans since 1990, averaging 24 years, 321 days. Iran coach Carlos Queiroz, a former U.S. Soccer Federation adviser, praised their pace, which forced his team to adjust.

"When we play a team with Ferraris who need space to accelerate, the best way to play against them is to close the highways so they can't gain speed," he said. A daunting task against the Dutch is ahead: The U.S. has five losses and six draws in 11 World Cup matches against European opponents since upsetting Portugal 3-2 in a 2002 opener.

"It's a great opportunity but it's not something that we're going into it thinking it's an honor. We deserve to be in the position we're in and we want to keep going," Berhalter said. "So for us, it's about how we recover from this game and prepare to play against a very good Dutch, very well coached, ton of quality all over the field, and we have to come up with an idea of how to beat them." □

**FIFA WORLD CUP
Qatar 2022**

Group C	
POL 0 - 2 ARG nov 30	
KSA 1 - 2 MEX nov 30	

Group D	
TUN 1 - 0 FRA nov 30	
AUS 1 - 0 DEN nov 30	

Group E	
JAP - - ESP dec 1	
CRC - - GEL dec 1	

Group F	
CRO - - BEL dec 1	
CAN - - MAR dec 1	

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Penguins D Letang out indefinitely after 2nd stroke

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Penguins defenseman Kris Letang is out indefinitely after suffering a stroke for the second time in his career.

General manager Ron Hextall announced Tuesday that the 35-year-old Letang initially reported symptoms to the team's training staff on Monday. He was held out of Tuesday night's 3-2 overtime loss to Carolina with what the team called an illness.

The team said Letang is not

experiencing "any lasting effects" and is undergoing further testing. Hextall added the stroke doesn't appear to be "career threatening."

This is the second stroke Letang has suffered during his 17-year career. The three-time Stanley Cup champion missed more than two months in 2014 after a stroke, which doctors determined was caused by a small hole in the wall of his heart.

"I am fortunate to know

my body well enough to recognize when something isn't right," Letang said in a release. "While it is difficult to navigate this issue publicly, I am hopeful it can raise awareness. ... I am optimistic that I will be back on the ice soon."

Letang, a six-time All-Star, has been one of the most durable players in the NHL. He's averaged well over 25 minutes of playing time per game since returning from his initial stroke eight years ago. □



Pittsburgh Penguins' Kris Letang plays during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Boston Bruins Saturday, April 16, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press

Beasts of East: All 8 NFL teams in East divisions above .500

By **JOSH DUBOW**
AP Pro Football Writer

Two years after no team in the NFC East won more than seven games, all four have pulled off the trick with six weeks to go.

Washington (7-5) beat Atlanta on Sunday to join Philadelphia (10-1), Dallas (8-3) and the Giants (7-4) with winning records, giving the division a combined winning percentage of .711 for the best mark through 12 weeks by any division since the merger.

Making the performance more impressive is the turnaround from 2020, when Washington won the NFC East with a 7-9 record.

The AFC East isn't far behind this season, with all four teams in that division also posting winning records, with Miami and Buf-



Washington Commanders cornerback Kendall Fuller (29) celebrating his interception against the Atlanta Falcons with his teammates near the end of the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022, in Landover, Md.

Associated Press

falo tied for the top spot at 8-3, followed by the Jets (7-4) and Patriots (6-5).

Before this season, the only times since the league went to eight divisions in

2002 when all four teams in a division had winning records through 12 weeks came in the 2021 AFC West, the 2014 AFC North, and the AFC East and NFC South in 2008.

The NFC South is at the other end of the division standings, with Tampa Bay (5-6) in the lead despite having a losing record. The only other times since 2002 when every team had a losing record through 12 games came in the 2020 NFC East, the 2015 NFC East, the 2014 NFC South and the 2010 NFC West.

According to projections from Football Outsiders, there is a 16% chance that the entire NFC East makes the playoffs and a 15% chance that happens for the AFC East. It's more likely both divisions will have

four teams with winning records, with the NFC East doing that 52% of the time and the AFC East 60% of the time. Football Outsiders projects all four NFC South teams to have a losing record 35% of the time.

300 CLUB

Josh Jacobs punctuated the best day of his career in memorable fashion.

Jacobs scored on an 86-yard run in overtime to lead the Raiders past the Seahawks for the fourth-longest scrimmage touchdown ever in overtime, trailing only Ron Jaworski's 99-yard TD pass to Mike Quick for the Eagles in 1985, Garrison Hearst's 96-yard TD run for the 49ers in 1998 and Teddy Bridgewater's 87-yard TD pass to Jarius Wright for the Vikings in 2014. Jacobs finished with 224 yards rushing and two TDs and 74 yards receiving, becoming the sixth player ever to gain at least 300 yards and score multiple touchdowns from scrimmage in a single game, joining Cloyce Box (1950), Billy Cannon (1961), Stephane Paige (1985), Priest Holmes (2002) and Adrian Peterson (2007).

Jacobs is the only player since at least 1950 to rush for at least 225 yards and have at least 70 yards receiving in a game.

GO FOR 2

The Chargers and Jaguars took late-game gambles that paid off in a big fashion. Los Angeles coach Brandon Staley and Jacksonville coach Doug Pederson both opted to go for 2-point conversions in the closing seconds when trailing by one.

Both teams delivered, making this the first week since the NFL added the play in 1994 that two teams won on a 2-point conversion in the final two minutes of regulation.

The Chargers scored with 15 seconds left and the Jaguars did it with 14 seconds to play. Before Sunday, only two teams in NFL history had scored on a game-winning 2-point conversion in the final 15 seconds, with the Vikings doing it in 2002 and the Chargers in 2018. □

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